

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1-27.

Please AMEND claims 28, 30-32, and 35-36 as follows:

Sub E1
28. (Amended) A headend for a television program delivery system which delivers program signals containing a plurality of video signals to one or more set top terminals, the headend comprising:

a plurality of integrated receiver components for processing program signals, each comprising:

a demodulator means for demodulating the program signal for further processing; and

a demultiplexer for demultiplexing the program signal into a plurality of video signals;

a means for selecting among the plurality of video signals comprising:

a control CPU for instructing on video signals to be selected;

a combiner for combining selected video signals comprising:

a means for temporarily storing portions of individual video signals; and

a means for assembling various stored portions of individual video signals into a combined signal;

a transmitter means for transmitting the combined signal to [set-top] set top terminals; and

transmission media, connected to the transmitter means, to carry the transmitted signal to the [set-top] set top terminals.

30. (Amended) A signal processor for a cable headend wherein the signal processor receives program signals and a program information data signal comprising:

first receiving means for receiving a plurality of program signals;

second receiving means for receiving a program information data signal;

means for selecting among the plurality of program signals using the received program information data signal;

first combiner means for combining the selected program signals comprising:

means for temporarily storing portions of the selected program signals during [the] a first combining process;

second combiner means for combining the program information data signal with the combined selected program signals to generate a combined signal; and

means for distributing the combined signal to cable subscribers.

31. (Amended) A cable headend for a television program delivery system which uses a plurality of video signals and instructions, and wherein [set-top] set top terminals communicate with the cable headend, the cable headend comprising:

a signal processor for processing a plurality of video signals comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of video signals;

means for selecting video signals from the plurality of video signals; and

combiner means for combining the selected video signals for distribution to set top terminals;

a network controller for controlling the operation of the signal processor and the [set-top] set top terminals comprising:

means for obtaining communications from the [set-top] set top terminals;

a computer processor, connected to the obtaining means, for generating [the] instructions to the signal processor using the [obtained] communications from the set top [terminal] terminals; and

means for transferring the instructions to the signal processor to be used for selecting video signals; and

a means for distributing the combined video signals to the set top terminals.

32. (Amended) A digital cable headend for a cable television program delivery system which uses a satellite transponder to deliver video programs in digital format to subscribers on a concatenated cable system, wherein the cable headend receives local programs and information on the insertion of local programs into the delivery system, the digital cable headend comprising:

means for receiving transponded signals containing digital video programs; integrated receiver decoder means for receiving and decoding the transponded signals;

means for [demultiplexing] demultiplexing the decoded signals into digital video programs;

a³
processor means for generating a local program information signal using information on [the] insertion of local programs with the received digital video program signals;

means for inserting local programs comprising:

means for obtaining local programs in digital format; and

means for communicating with the processor to receive the

generated local program information signal;

means for multiplexing the digital video programs and local programs into a combined signal;

means for modulating the combined signal for transmission;

means for distributing the modulated signal to subscribers on a concatenated cable system.

35. (Amended) The modular cable headend of claim 33 wherein the television program delivery system uses [a] two groups of satellite transponders, a first group and a second group, to deliver television programs to subscribers on a concatenated cable system, and

a⁴
wherein the means for receiving program signals comprises means for obtaining transponded signals from the first group of [satellites] satellite transponders; and

wherein the means for receiving program signals with digitized programs comprises means for obtaining transponded signals from the second group of satellite transponders.